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*Editorial*

# The Filipino people repudiate the chief imperialist and terrorist

**T**he thick dark cloud that descended with US President George W. Bush's brief visit to the Philippines parted as thousands of flags waved to express the Filipino people's militant protest against US imperialism and the Arroyo puppet regime.

The torching of a hundred US flags—symbol of the imperialist oppression and exploitation of the Philippines and the entire world—brought brightness even as the imperialist eagle's giant shadow descended over the entire country.

Cries reverberated from tens of thousands who marched in the streets and millions of others who protested through various ways in different places: End imperialist rule in the Philippines! End the puppet Arroyo regime!

Despite the attempts of the Arroyo regime to suppress their actions, the Filipino people successfully showed the whole world that they are not docile lambs who will kowtow before the most powerful imperialist and terrorist. They manifested their furious protest over US imperialism's intensifying



semicolonial exploitation and oppression of the Philippines and the Arroyo regime's despicable puppetry. They demonstrated their patriotic stand and their desire to break free from the clutches of US imperialism and its lackeys in the country.

They repudiated further US imperialist plunder, which has wrought backwardness to the country and further suffering on the Filipino people, and its exacerbation through the imperialist policy of "free market globalization." They mirrored the global opposition to the US' measures to make the World Trade Organization further serve its interests, which resulted in the col-

lapse of its latest negotiations in Cancun, Mexico. They repudiated the US' latest scheme to impose its will through bilateral and regional agreements with the aim of edging out other imperialist countries and further monopolizing and plundering the economies of other countries, especially those of backward countries.

The Filipino people repudiated intensifying and deepening armed US intervention in the Philippines. They expressed their opposition to measures that would restore US military bases—small or expansive, permanent or otherwise. They cried out for the abrogation of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA),

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the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA), the agreement exempting US soldiers from jurisdiction by the International Criminal Court and other agreements that pave the way for US military intervention in the Philippines.

They repudiated the US' "anti-terrorist" doctrine that the Arroyo regime blindly supports. They assailed Arroyo for scuttling and sacrificing the peace negotiations on the altar of "anti-terrorism" and for tearing to shreds ten agreements between the government and the National Democratic Front. They assailed Arroyo's anti-terrorist war, widespread militarization and the US' arming of its most reliable puppet. They assailed Arroyo's shameless insistence on US armed intervention in the civil war in the Philippines and in the anti-Moro war in its mad hope of terrorizing the people and the revolutionary forces.

US President George Bush's visit highlighted the neocolonial character of the Philippines' political and economic system. It highlighted the ever-intensifying US imperialist oppression and exploitation of the Philippines and

other semicolonial countries.

Only the puppets, big compradors, bureaucrat capitalists, fascists, exploiters and oppressors of the people celebrated the visit of their esteemed master and revered god—the chief imperialist and world's number one terrorist.

They said "Amen!" and repeatedly applauded in response to every mention of the "anti-terrorism" doctrine by Bush, their lord and master. They listened intently to the US' twisted logic for waging war and praising the Arroyo puppet regime's total support for it. They were one with the number one bully as he proudly declared the imposition of Pax Americana on Iraq and Afghanistan and the trampling of all existing policies of civilized international relations.

Together they gorged themselves rotten in the multimillion-peso banquet and the lavish ornaments they offered Bush. Led by the chief puppet Gloria Arroyo, they celebrated a century of colonial and semicolonial rule by the all-powerful America, as well as their latest conspiracies and schemes for the more brazen exploitation and oppression of the

people. As they wallowed in their gluttony, they sang hosannas to imperialist "globalization" and gave praise to the high heavens to the "war against terrorism".

They all fell prostrate in supplication and beseeched their master grant them alms—something to line their pockets with, some small change to fill the government's empty coffers, a few pieces of outmoded military equipment to annihilate a people up in arms. As before, they pledged to offer all—even the little that is left of Philippine independence. They would even change the government's constitution just to further the US' preeminent neocolonial control over the Philippines.

The scandalous cost of the Arroyo regime's grand welcome for George W. Bush is execrable. The regime had no respect whatsoever for national sovereignty and integrity when it allowed US imperialism's security personnel to search through every nook and cranny of Malacañang, Congress and wherever Bush would pass through and stay. It is infuriating for Arroyo to have laid out the red carpet for Bush after demolishing the shanties of hundreds of urban poor and mercilessly truncheoning protesters.

The Arroyo regime is a laughing stock for lavishly praising Bush even as he is assailed by the world's peoples and even by the American people for being a fascist warmonger and for his imperialist bullying, deception and lies.

Arroyo will pay dearly for the boundless puppetry to US imperialism that she has shown. Even as the people of the world abhor Bush and history judges this false god, so will Arroyo be judged in the Philippines for her stupid subservience to her imperialist master and for the extreme hardship she has wrought on the Filipino people. AB



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# Fiery protests greet Bush

**B**urning US flags greeted US President George W. Bush's eight-hour visit to the Philippines. The US imperialist flags were torched in nine major cities and town centers nationwide from the night of October 17 until October 18.

The burning of the US flags and effigies of Bush and Arroyo was the culmination of almost daily protests throughout the country this October. As a whole, over 50,000 protested the arrival of the number one terrorist.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan led the rally along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City that was attended by over 10,000 demonstrators from affiliated national-democratic organizations. Together with Rep. Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran of Bayan

Muna, the rallyists marched towards the Batasang Pambansa Complex but were blocked by 800 anti-riot policemen two kilometers away from the Batasan. Over 11,000 police forces guarded the Batasan and Malacañang perimeters.

As they awaited Bush's arrival, the demonstrators distributed copies of a statement by NDF negotiating panel senior political consultant Jose Maria Sison, who said "The imperialist master is on a rendezvous with his most servile puppet in Southeast Asia in order to exchange flatteries and celebrate their obscene relationship."

"For the people of Iraq and other victims of US imperialism," the demonstrators cried as they burned a hundred US flags. Three hundred protesters trampled underfoot before ripping and burning an even bigger US flag measuring seven meters wide and 14 meters long and which had the words "US imperialist No. 1 terrorist" written on it.

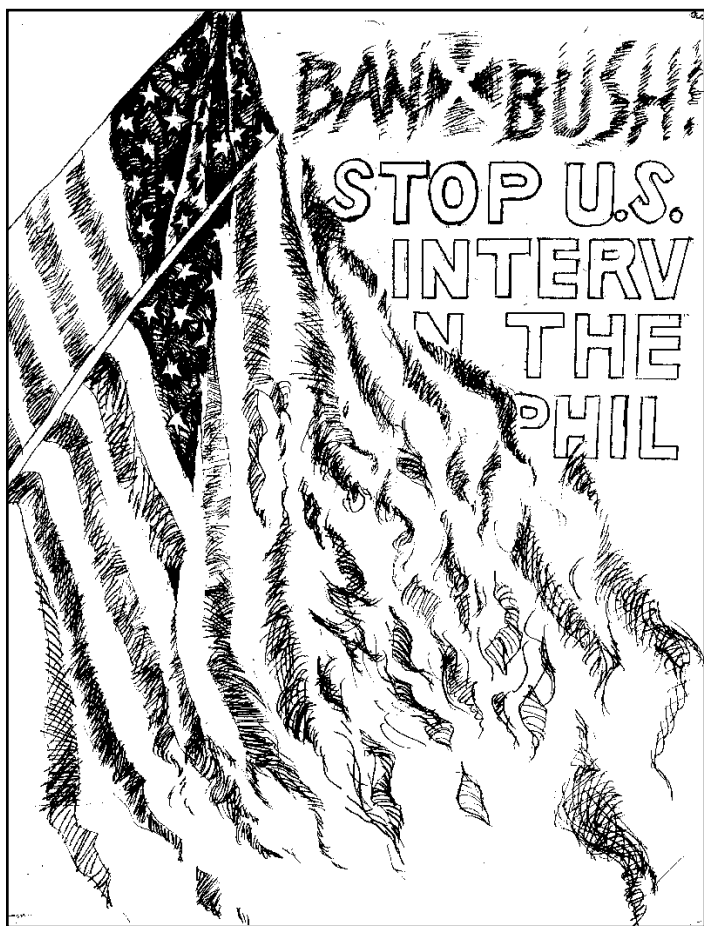
Outside Metro Manila, protest actions were simultaneously launched on the eve of Bush's visit. Up to 7,000 demonstrators led by BAYAN-Central Luzon launched a march-rally from October 17 to October 18 at the entrance of the Clark Economic Zone, the former US military base in Angeles City. They were joined by delegations from the Ilocos, Cordillera and Cagayan Valley regions.

Despite the attempts of police to block the 2,000 members of Southern Tagalog Opposed to the Presence of Bush (STOP Bush!), they managed to reach Manila. They had started their caravan in Calamba City, Laguna as early as October 13.

On the night of October 17, a protest concert was held at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Over 15,000 launched mass actions in Bicol: 5,000 in Sorsogon City; 2,000 in Naga City; 4,500 in Masbate City; 2,000 in Legazpi City; and 400 in Daet, Camarines Norte. Over 2,000 waged protest actions in Panay: 2,000 in Iloilo City; 300 in Roxas City; and 200 in Kalibo, Aklan. Over 2,000 also rallied in Eastern Visayas: 1,500 in Catbalogan City; and 550 in the cities of Tacloban and Ormoc. In Cebu City, 1,000 protested while over 100 rallied in Bacolod City.

In Mindanao, a cultural rally was held in Davao City with 3,000 people attending. Meanwhile, 5,000 people assembled in General Santos City. They came from South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani. Some 1,000 also protested in Cagayan de Oro and other areas of Misamis Oriental.



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**The burning of the US flags and effigies of Bush and Arroyo was the culmination of almost daily protests throughout the country this October.**

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# Bush and GMA cook up bilateral agreements

**U**S imperialism continues to push “free market globalization” through various means to advance its economic hegemony in the world. It persists in employing bully tactics to push for global agreements within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organization (GATT/WTO). At the same time, the US has been maneuvering to put into place and consolidate bilateral and regional agreements. Through these agreements, the US and its puppet regimes seek to implement by stealth the further liberalization of trade and investments.

Hastening the draft of such bilateral and regional agreements and tightening up on existing agreements at these levels have become more significant for US imperialism in the face of the collapse of the WTO negotiations in Cancun, Mexico. In seeking agreements with other regions and countries, the US seeks to soften the stance of those who objected to and thwarted the US’ proposals in Cancun, and still achieve its agenda behind these proposals. This way, it could continue with its worldwide plunder.

This was on Bush’s agenda when he took his whirlwind tour of

Southeast Asia and attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Thailand. Another item on his agenda was to campaign for US allies’ continued and greater support for the “war against terrorism” and their legitimization of the increasingly untenable US occupation of Iraq.

In the Philippines, the bilateral agreement in the works is not far removed from the Laurel-Langley Agreement of 1954 and the Bell Trade Act of 1946. This bilateral agreement will provide foreigners, American monopoly corporations, in particular with parity rights, enabling them to enjoy 100% ownership of businesses and land and control over various aspects of the economy.

As early as last year, American corporate giants have already been insisting on the

need for a comprehensive bilateral “free trade” agreement between the US and the Philippines. In April 2002, the Business Framework Agreement (BFA) was signed by the US-Philippines Business Committee and the US ASEAN Business Council on one side and the RP-US Business Council, on the other. It was the RP-US Business Council that actively pushed for such an agreement. In the absence of a comprehensive accord, it is the BFA that serves as a “free trade” agreement covering the following:

1. Liberalization in trade and investment
2. Liberalization of the airline industry (or the so-called “open skies policy”)
3. Deregulation of the energy sector
4. Deregulation of businesses devoted to e-commerce such as call centers
5. Promoting genetically modified organisms (GMO) in the agricultural sector
6. Strengthening tourism

The RP-US Business Council includes, among other, a number of US corporate giants like AOL Time Warner, Boeing Company, British Petroleum, Chevron Texaco, Federal Express, Kellogg Brown & Root, Monsanto Company, Motorola, Unisys and United Technologies Corporation.

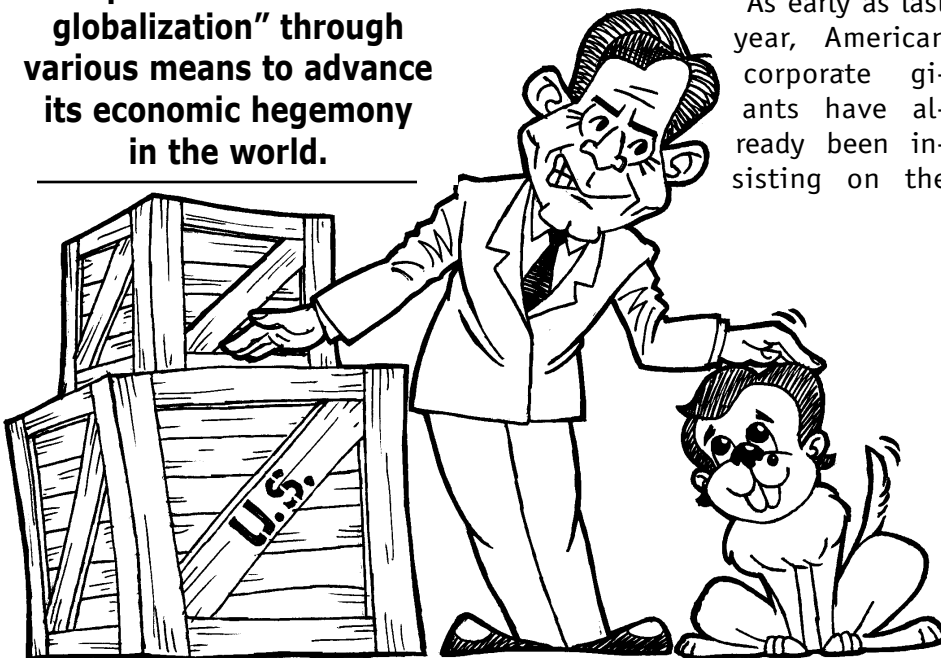
It is corporations like them that will be the principal beneficiaries of an agreement on trade and investments between the US and the Philippines. These corporations are also pushing for charter change to remove provisions declaring the protection of the nation’s patrimony.

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**US imperialism continues to push “free market globalization” through various means to advance its economic hegemony in the world.**

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# Lessons and victories in the agrarian struggle in Isabela

Forty-five leaders and members of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid (PKM) from five towns of southern Isabela and Quirino province attended a peasant conference on September 22-24. The meeting, which took place in Cagayan Valley, was launched to sum up experiences and form resolutions in advancing the struggles of the peasant masses in Isabela.

One of the matters summed up by the conference was a peasant campaign conducted in two towns in Isabela in May that led to the reduction of interest rates by 40-50% and the eradication of many forms of merchant fraud. More than 101,000 peasants from over 100 barrios benefited from these victories.

**Widespread mobilization and organization of the masses.** The conference identified the factors that led to these victories. Foremost among them was the advance of municipal-level mass struggles that shattered conservatism in launching agrarian struggles and served as the key in stepping up the organization and mobilization of the masses.

In six months of waging struggle, over 1,300 people were organized into more than a hundred peasant, women and youth groups as well as groups of national minorities, children and middle forces. The establishment of a PKM chapter has also been initiated in southern Isabela, and many more organizing committees were set up.

Several hundred activists were developed and mobilized. Several hundred people were given revolutionary education during and after the campaign. Over 2,300 peasants from 45 barrios were mobilized to join confrontations with landlords. It has been some time since mobilizations of this size were last seen

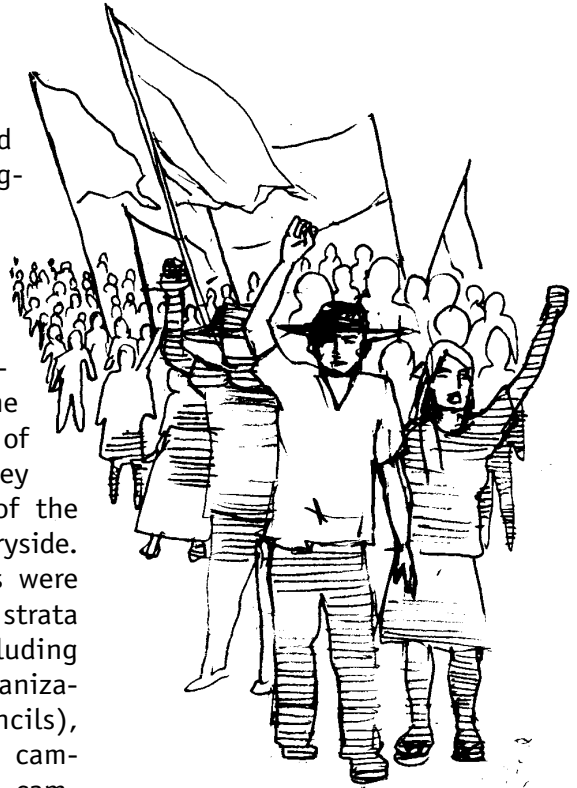
in the area.

## **Anti-feudal class line.**

The task of kicking off, sustaining and winning the campaign relied mainly on the strength of the basic strata of the peasantry. Once again, they proved to be the bedrock of the mass movement in the countryside. On this basis, entire barrios were mobilized, both the basic strata and middle peasants (including officials of traditional organizations and Barangay Councils), especially in the anti-usury campaign. In the course of the campaign, rich peasants (including guarantors and other extensions of the merchant usury system) were either won over or neutralized.

A significant number of middle forces linked up with and supported the peasant movement. Professionals in the barrios and town centers, local bureaucrats, church people and government employees established contact and gave political, financial and technical support. They also helped thwart military attacks on the peasant movement, win demands during the confrontations and ensure that the targeted landlords do not renege on agreements.

**Readiness in propaganda and mobilization.** The campaign was well prepared with all the requirements for sustained agitation, propaganda and mass mobiliza-



tions. Through the various forms of propaganda put out, such as leaflets, streamers, flyers and media releases as well as through speaking engagements in radio stations, the campaigners were able to reach out to broad sections of the masses. The organizers made sure that thousands would be mobilized to project the strength of the peasant movement. The vehicles, food supplies and contingency plans in case the AFP and the PNP tried to prevent the protest action were all readied.

Revolutionary mass organizations were formed and raised to a higher level to act as the campaign's backbone and motor, while legal organizations were formed to

*Continued on "Lessons..." on page 6*





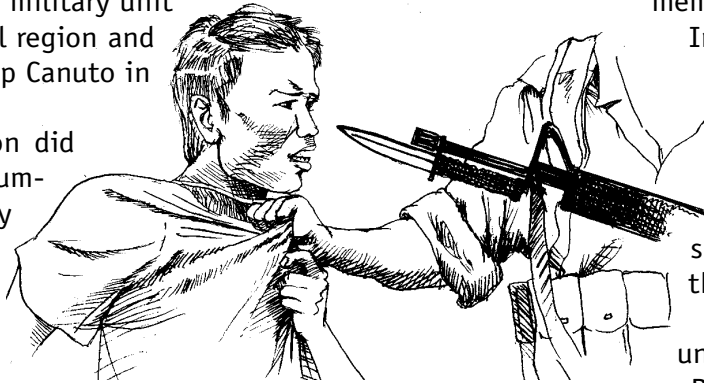
# The "Orgullo" Brigade is a failure in Bicol

**"E**ver since the 9th 'Orgullo' Brigade was set up, it has been obsessed with recruiting many Bicolano youth to become soldiers," said National Democratic Front-Bicol spokesperson Gregorio Bañares in a statement. When the Philippine Army unit was formed last year, the plan was to form an all-Bicolano division. The new unit adopted the moniker "Orgullo," which means "pride" in Bicolano, because it was supposedly the Bicol region's pride. The 9th Brigade is the main military unit in charge of the entire Bicol region and has its headquarters in Camp Canuto in Pili, Camarines Sur.

But the planned division did not materialize, with the number of recruits enough only for an undersize brigade. To reach the required number, it had to recruit CAFGU elements, and even minors and those with criminal records. This way, the brigade was able to save on costs while exempting regular troops from performing several tasks.

Officials cite budget deficits as an excuse for their failure to recruit a sufficient number of men for the "Orgullo" Brigade. Beyond this, the brigade has failed because it is loathed by the people for its long record of crimes and abuses. From the start, the people have opposed its recruitment efforts for the CAFGU and its construction of detachments in various areas.

Moreover, it is no secret to the people and to CAFGU elements themselves that they are the victims of the ineptness of the AFP, PNP and their officials.



Some examples:

On February 20 this year, the police killed a CAFGU member and wounded two others in a misencounter in Barangay Mapinya, Masbate City when CAFGU elements responded after an NPA unit meted punishment on Barangay Captain Laloy Danao, a member of a criminal syndicate. The PNP made it appear in its report to media that the NPA assaulted a Kababayan Center, killing and wounding the CAFGU members.

In another misencounter, soldiers of the 2nd IB killed two CAFGU elements in Barangay Bangao, Baleno, Masbate, but media reports claimed that they were slain in an encounter with the NPA. Angered, other members of the CAFGU unit went AWOL en masse.

Because of such incidents, more and more troops are bolting the AFP and the CAFGU. Some of them have surrendered to the NPA while others have even joined it. According to the NDF-Bicol, 13 CAFGU elements bolted the 31st IB in Barangay Bagong Silang II in Labo, Camarines Norte in the second week of September. "They left because they could no longer stomach the abuses of the officers of the 31st IB Charlie Company and the frequent delays in their meager allowances," said Bañares.

*(Based on the NDF-Bicol's open letter to the CAFGU and rank-and-file soldiers of the 9th Brigade, September 25, 2003)*

AB

## "Lessons..." from page 5

coordinate the broad campaign.

The campaign reached out to and mobilized the masses creatively both through open and clandestine means.

**Recruitment into the Party and the NPA.** Above all, steps were taken to ensure that the campaign's victory and advance served to expand and strengthen the New

People's Army, the Party and the people's Red political power.

The NPA recruited the equivalent of a regular platoon during and after the campaign. Many barrio youth were encouraged to join the army as they witnessed the NPA's dedication in guiding the peasant movement. A significant number of integrees from the cities was also convinced to become full-timers, mainly because they wit-

nessed the NPA's firm relationship with the masses, especially in advancing the agrarian revolution. There has also been a marked growth in Party membership in the locality, as well as an increase in the number of people's militia.

Once again, it has been proven that agrarian revolution is the key link and the thread that binds revolutionary work in the countryside.

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# People's opposition to the SOT in the Cordillera

The mercenary military's "counter-insurgency" operations conducted through its Special Operations Teams (SOTs) are an impersonation of the operations of the New People's Army's Armed Propaganda Units. But apart from using more forces to saturate priority barrios, putting stress on military aspects and enhancing the role of civilian agencies in carrying out certain psy-war components, the SOT is essentially unchanged even as it now sports the new moniker Re-engineered SOT (RSOT).

The SOT enters the scene after the clearing operations stage, when an area has been adjudged to be free of the NPA. The SOT takes part in the so-called "hold and consolidate" operations stage. SOT operations form the third component of the much broader Triad Operations (with strike operations and intelligence operations comprising the first two parts of the triad). There are maneuver and intelligence operations assigned to support SOT operations in every designated area.

Intelligence work and fielding assets among the masses are always part of the SOT's tasks. From time to time, SOTs also join strike operations. But the SOT's main thrust is Civilian-Military Operations (CMO) which, in reality, are psychological operations or psy-ops. The SOT pretends to be benign and carries out a counterfeit version of the NPA's mass work in its effort to deceive the masses, win their hearts and minds, and lead them away from the path of revolution.

The SOT uses two methods of carrying out psy-ops: in word and in deed.

Psy-ops carried out in word involve slandering the revolutionary movement. The SOTs demonize the NPA in their radio programs, village meetings and leafleteering.

They spread the propaganda that nurses and doctors refuse to go to the barrios because they fear the NPA, that the NPA cultivates marijuana and extorts money from the masses and that it carries out criminal fund-raising efforts, among other lies.

Psy-ops in deed involve launching CMOs through medical missions, sports festivals, shows and "education." In reality, their so-called "education" are lectures by military officials and real and fake rebel returnees. In the Cordillera, the AFP also employs CPLA elements to give such lectures.

All these activities contain nothing but defamatory messages against communism and the NPA. The SOT also mimics the NPA's literacy campaign. They show movies that either vilify the Party and the NPA or have lewd content. They also stage plays that portray the NPA as being the epitome of evil.

They pretend to conduct social investigation like the NPA, but only to identify the supporters of the revolutionary movement. When they have come up with a list of presumed sympathizers, they pinpoint the latter during barrio meetings and then harass, intimidate and sow intrigues against the persons they have named.



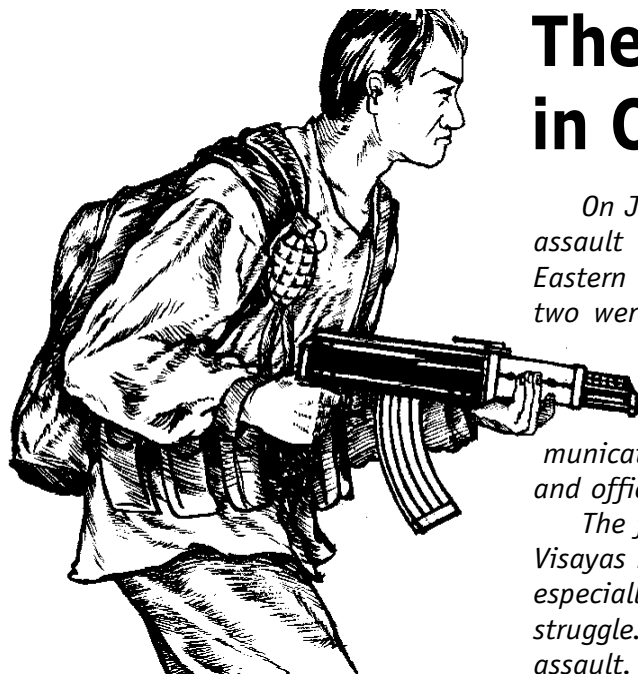
illustration from *Dangadang*

They also give small amounts of money to support deceptive livelihood projects that also serve as bribes. The livelihood projects include cooperatives which they usually entrust in the hands of opportunists and often become sources of corruption and discord. Particularly in the Cordillera, they enlist counterrevolutionary organizations like the Kalinga Bodong Council of bureaucrats and politicians and the Concerned Citizens of Abra for Good Government of the reformist social-democrats.

In *binodngan* communities, they call for unity and order among the tribes to avert tribal wars. But what they regard as order and unity is the formation of barangay intelligence networks (BIN) and CAFGU.

In most cases, however, the SOTs find it difficult to recruit from the barrios, especially from the organized villages. There are few barrios that have BIN and CAFGU in the Cordillera, and their members are usually the henchmen of may-

*Continued on "People's..." on page 8*



## The story behind the raid in Oras, Eastern Samar

*On June 26, NPA Red fighters shocked the enemy in an astounding assault on a detachment of the 52nd IB in Barangay Cagpili, Oras, Eastern Samar. Ten CAGFU elements and five soldiers were killed and two were wounded in the raid. Twenty-five firearms were seized: an M203 grenade launcher, seven M16s, five M14s, nine Garands, two carbines and a .45 pistol. The Red fighters also confiscated 2,225 rounds of ammunition, communication equipment, knapsacks and uniforms, and other military and office equipment.*

*The following article based on correspondence reports from Eastern Visayas relates the significant facts behind the successful raid in Oras, especially about the breadth and depth of mass support for the armed struggle. It likewise rectifies the lies propagated by the AFP about the assault.*

*Continued on "The story..." on page 9*

### "Lessons..." from page 7

ors or CPLA elements.

In places where the revolutionary movement operates or even in areas reached by the open democratic movement, there is strong popular opposition to joining the CAGFU and collaborating with the military and the deleterious projects of the government and foreign and local ruling classes.

Political work within the military has also resulted in more and more CAGFU defections. More CAGFU elements have also been maintaining clandestine links with the NPA and helping it.

The mercenary, puppet and fascist military is unable to win the support and nurture that it desperately wants from the masses. It is unable to deceive the masses with its token gestures to ingratiate itself with the people. It cannot sustain its deceptive stance because it reveals its inherently abrasive, fascist and lumpen character after only a brief period.

It is unable to emulate the NPA, especially in terms of establishing good relations with the masses. Thus, it cannot earn the trust, love and nurture that the masses give the NPA.

In a barrio in Mountain Province, for instance, military officials openly berated villagers for refusing to sell chickens to the SOT. They also demanded to know why nobody wanted to guide them through the forest. This is likewise the case in many other barrios in Mountain Province and Abra. Meanwhile, in Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur, the 50th IB was unable to set up a detachment because of the masses' stiff opposition.

The people's widespread opposition is mainly the result of the painstaking political work conducted by the revolutionaries and democratic forces among the peasants and national minorities and of the people's long experience of suffering from oppression and struggling against it.

In many places in the

**The mercenary, puppet and fascist military is unable to win the support and nurture that it desperately wants from the masses.**

Cordillera, the people have a long history of waging broad struggles against the reactionary state as well as fascists, landgrabbers, and the ruling classes seeking to usurp their ancestral lands and natural resources and intensify the exploitation and national oppression of the minority peoples. Among such heroic examples are the victorious struggles against the Chico Dam, Cellophil and gigantic foreign mining companies. The revolutionary movement and the open democratic organizations and alliances also continue to uphold the broad unity and all-out struggle waged by tribespeople and the entire people against the country's basic problems and the particular problem of national oppression. **AB**



*"The story..." from page 8*

Dawn had not yet broken on the 26th of June when the NPA's main assault force secretly maneuvered towards the target detachment of the 52nd IB in Barangay Cagpili, Oras, Eastern Samar. A platoon-size group of regular soldiers and CAFGU elements manned the detachment. It was positioned atop a hill 50 meters high facing a river. Because the detachment's defenses were strongest at this position, the fascist enemy did not expect the NPA to attack from the river's direction. Their attention and defense were directed at another hill behind their position.

The NPA took advantage of the enemy's frame of mind. In the attack plan they drew, the Red fighters positioned their main support element (base of fire no. 1)

on the opposite hill as a diversionary force and to provide cover for the main assault force and the second support element (base of fire no. 2). According to the plan, the NPA would seize the detachment's weakest point first and convert this into the Red fighters' second base of fire in order to gradually seize enemy positions in the middle and opposite end where the defense was strongest.

By 4:30 AM, the time set for the attack, deafening bursts of machine gun and rifle fire from the NPA's main support element shattered the early morning silence. From afar, the Red fighters moved towards the second support element and the main assault force to take their designated positions.

The flares fired by the fascist enemy to enable them to see the guerrillas closing in on them

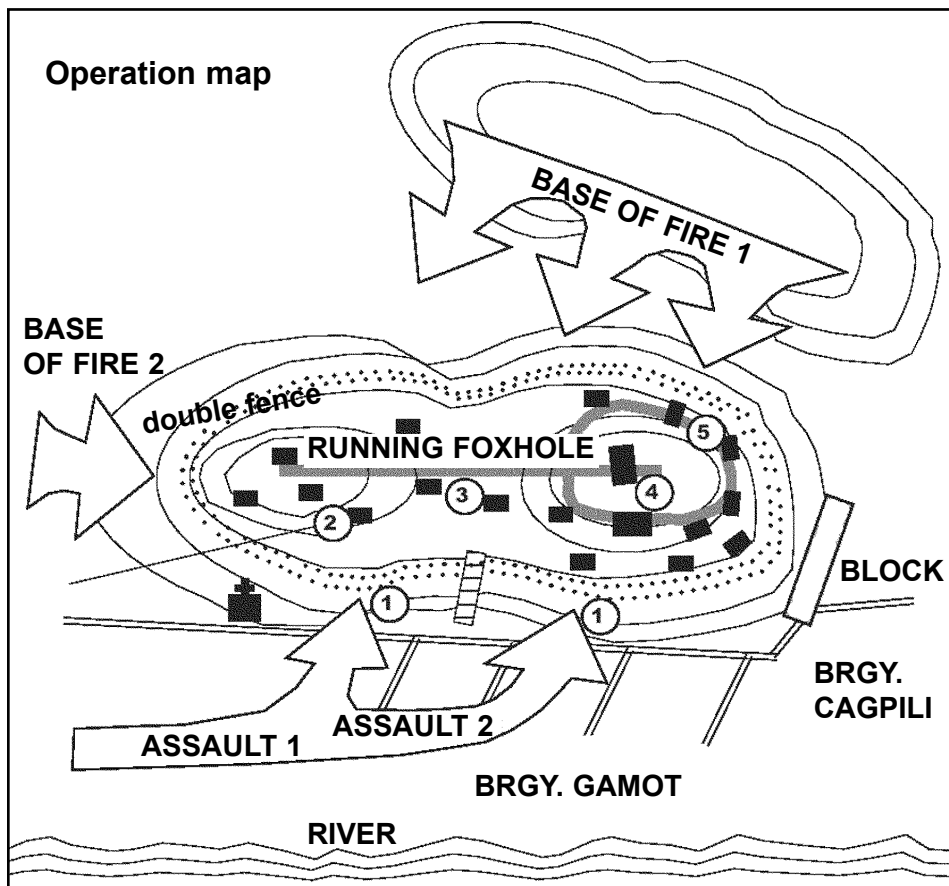
glowed like fireballs. The Red fighters crawled up the steep and muddy hill where the detachment was positioned. Their advance was made more difficult by the detachment's strong double wooden fence reinforced with wire. They later had to pull out the fence and lift it to allow comrades to crawl underneath while most of the others went in through the stairs and the gate to the detachment.

After an almost unremitting exchange of gunfire, the Red fighters overran the targeted end of the enemy position. The second support element quickly took position to concentrate its fire on the enemy's middle position, which was already being attacked by the assault force.

The Red fighters discovered that the detachment's defenses were much better than they knew. There were more barracks—19, instead of the 15 that they had known of—and there was a system of running foxholes that linked the barracks all the way to the enemy's main area of defense facing the opposite hill. Nevertheless, the Red fighters fought for control over each of the barracks, until they were able to seize even the enemy's middle position and encircle the remaining soldiers and CAFGU elements on the far end position. The wounded soldiers surrendered and the detachment was overrun after about an hour and forty-five minutes.

The NPA treated the wounded—Mary Jane Canonigo, the wife of one of the fallen soldiers and one Pfc. Nadera.

When the Red fighters realized that Mrs. Canonigo was wounded in one of the foxholes, they immediately took her to a safer position so they could apply first



aid to her. This is in contrast to enemy reports that Mrs. Canonigo fought the NPA to the death. The comrades entrusted her in the care of the masses to ensure that she would be immediately taken to a hospital. The NPA also brought Mrs. Canonigo's baby, who was with her in the foxhole, to a nearby barrio so that the child could be cared for and returned to her relatives. Before being turned over to the masses, Mrs. Canonigo even asked the NPA medics who treated her not to leave her by herself—proving that she was treated well by the Red fighters. Unfortunately, she died in the hospital.

When the NPA treated Pfc. Nadera's wounds, he wholeheartedly thanked the comrades. Before the guerrillas retreated, they made sure that the wounded soldier had been taken on a pumpboat to be rushed to a hospital. The Red fighters burned the detachment before retreating aboard three pumpboats. The enemy was not able to pursue them.

**Masses' decisive role.** The peasant masses and militia units played a decisive role throughout most of the NPA's tactical offensive. Members of mass organizations in Northern and Eastern Samar were mobilized for the operation and up to 97 militia members took part in and supported the tactical offensive in various ways.

Members of mass organizations ensured the smooth flow of food and other supplies to the large number of Red fighters from various guerrilla units that assembled for the tactical offensive. They had spent several days at their position while awaiting the date of the raid, but their presence was never detected. The peasant masses served as the NPA's eyes and ears, while the fascist military remained deaf and blind to the Red fighters' movements.

Militia members directly participated in the raid, from the planning stage to its actual execution to the retreat. They delivered food to the comrades up to their retreat position, carried explosives and other ordnance, and attended to and transported the wounded comrades after the fighting. One of them helped the Red fighters in manning the machine gun, while ten of them supported the medical team. The others cleared the footprints left behind by the Red fighters.

While the flames charred the demolished enemy camp, the Red fighters safely traversed the river. Their pumpboats passed several barrios, where the peasant masses gathered by the riverbanks to salute them and hail the victorious tactical offensive. After the echoes of gunfire, it was the peasants' jubilations that reverberated throughout the river's length: "Long live the NPA! Long live the victorious offensive!" AB

## NDF-GRP peace talks to resume

After more than two years of suspension by the Arroyo regime, formal peace negotiations between the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) are set to resume next month. The agreement was reached by the two negotiating panels in informal talks in Oslo, Norway on October 9, according to the NDF panel.

The peace negotiations shall be based on The Hague Joint Declaration and nine other bilateral agreements, the Utrecht Joint Statement on March 9, 2003 and the Oslo Communiqué on April 30, 2001.

The NDF cited the continued listing of the CPP, NPA and Jose Ma. Sison as terrorists by the US and the European Union as obstacles to the peace negotiations. The NDF says this is interference in the Philippines' internal affairs and should be decried by the GRP.

## Two new books by Ka Joema launched

The Aklat ng Bayan publishing house launched October 10 two new books by exiled revolutionary leader Jose Ma. Sison—*US Terrorism in the Philippines* and *Pulitika at Ekonomya ng Pilipinas*—at Balay Kalinaw in the University of the Philippines in Quezon City.



*US Terrorism in the Philippines* is a collection of Sison's incisive and profound observations on the US imperialism's plunderous, oppressive and terrorist operations in the Philippines and worldwide and the struggle of the revolutionary forces and the people against it. Sison likewise criticizes the unjust and malicious defamation campaign waged against him by the puppet regime and the imperialists, primarily the US, and the terrorist tag on him and the CPP-NPA.

*Pulitika at Ekonomya sa Pilipinas* is a translation of the original English which was first published in 1998. It contains the series of interviews he gave his wife Juliet de Lima-Sison when he was in prison.

# Fraport exposes Malacañang extort try

**T**he latest exposé on the attempt by the Arroyo regime's men to extort from Fraport AG is a big blow to the regime. Fraport is a German company that served as the main investor in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 construction project. Fraport formally lodged a complaint about the extort try with the International Center for the Settlement of Investments Disputes (ICSID), a World Bank agency.

Fraport charged that Arroyo's personal attorney, Atty. F. Arthur Villaraza, and First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, asked for up to \$70 million to dislodge the Cheng family, the dummy that fronted as the majority owner of PIATCo. Fraport and PIATCo are investment partners in the NAIA Terminal 3 construction project.

Moreover, Gloria Tan-Climaco, then the presidential adviser for strategic projects, "strongly suggested" that Fraport AG seek the services of the Villaraza-Angangco Law Offices because of its strong connections with Malacañang. The law firm holds office at the LTA Building which is owned by Mike Arroyo's family.

According to Fraport, the government asked it to oust the Cheng family from the project to give way to the entry of Malacañang crony Lucio Tan. Also among those who applied direct pressure on Fraport was Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, Atty. Avelino Cruz. When Fraport refused to go along with Malacañang's wishes, the Supreme Court nullified Fraport and PIATCo's

contract for the construction project in May.

Wilhelm Bender and Manfred Schulch, chairman and vice chairman, respectively, of Fraport AG detailed the exposé in a September 17 letter to the ICSID. Fraport asked the ICSID to intercede in the company's negotiations with the Arroyo government for \$425 million in damages to compensate it for the arbitrary invalidation of the contract and the expenses it incurred in the airport's construction.

The NAIA 3 scandals came to light as early as January when cases were filed with the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) against seven close men of the president in relation to anomalies surrounding the awarding of the NAIA 3 contract to PIATCo. Among those charged with

graft was Edgardo Manda, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority and Arroyo's former deputy chief of staff when she was still vice president. The case was highlighted anew recently when Fraport filed its case with ICSID.

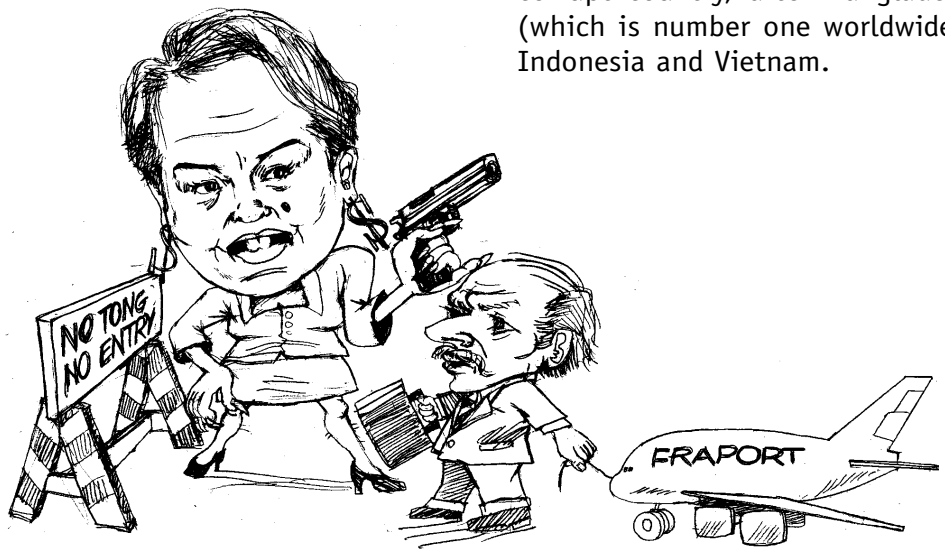
The graft case involving Fraport is merely the latest among the high-profile corruption scandals involving the Arroyo couple. On October 13, Sen. Panfilo Lacson presented the third part of his exposé about the Arroyos' corruption. Included in the 23 pieces of evidence of corruption involving the Arroyo couple is the use of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Government Service Insurance System funds for the president's political campaign.

Meanwhile, the Philippines has been listed as the 11th most corrupt country by Transparency International, an organization that makes an annual tally of countries throughout the world according to degree of corruption. The Philippines placed 12th the previous year. In Southeast Asia, the Philippines is the fourth most corrupt country, after Bangladesh (which is number one worldwide), Indonesia and Vietnam. AB

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**The graft case involving Fraport is merely the latest among the high-profile corruption scandals involving the Arroyo couple.**

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**October 18, Agusan del Sur:** The New People's Army (NPA) raided a detachment of the 4th ID in Barangay Berseba, Bayugan, killing a soldier and a CAFGU member and seizing their firearms.

**October 15, Albay:** A CAFGU element was killed and two sergeants and another CAFGU wounded when the NPA clashed with troops of the 201st Bde on patrol in Barangay Danao, Polangui.

**October 14, Isabela:** A sergeant of the 21st IB was killed and another wounded in an NPA ambush in Barangay Mabayad along the borders of Jones, San Agustin and Echague towns.

**October 13, Camarines Norte:** The NPA raided the San Lorenzo Ruiz municipal hall at around 9:45 PM. Two policemen were wounded in the firefight. A grenade blast incinerated a PNP jeep.

**October 10, Occidental Mindoro:** Two troops of the 408th PNP Provincial Mobile Group were killed and two more wounded when a bomb was detonated on their vehicle in Sitio Kadilawan, Barangay Vicente, Abra de Ilog.

**October 4, Laguna:** Four troops of the Philippine Army 1st IB were killed and many more wounded in an encounter with an NPA squad in Sapang Bomba along the border of Cavinti, Laguna and Mauban, Quezon. A military platoon was combing through a highly thicketed area along the Laguna-Quezon border when the Red fighters spotted them. The NPA immediately opened fire.

The reactionary military suppressed news about the encounter. Instead, AFP spokesperson Col. Daniel Lucero bragged about seizing an NPA camp in Barangay Calminaue, Cavinti, Laguna. But no less than the residents living by Lake Caliraya, which is close to the site of the encounter, witnessed a helicopter bringing the dead and wounded soldiers to the 1st IB headquarters in Western Talaungan, Cavinti.

## Judges launch protest actions

COURT services in Manila and other cities and municipalities throughout the country were temporarily disrupted on October 6 when judges launched protest actions. Magistrates and court employees demanded the ratification of Senate Bill 2018, which provides for a 25% increase in their salaries and allowances. In Cebu City, justices suspended hearings scheduled that day. Meanwhile, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)-Cebu City and its provincial chapter expressed support for the protesting magistrates. In Negros Occidental, courts in seven cities and ten other towns closed for the day.

## Protests rock GSIS

WIDESPREAD protests rocked the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) from October 6 to 8 due to cases of large-scale corruption involving its management. Government employees launched a protest march on October 8 in Manila led by the Confederation for the Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (COURAGE). Up to 5,000 gathered in front of the GSIS head office in Pasay City to demand the ouster of GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia.

COURAGE also led protest actions in the cities of Baguio and San Fernando in La Union and likewise in Lucena City. Four hundred government employees from 26 different agencies in Tacloban City launched protests led by COURAGE-Eastern Visayas. Five hundred members of COURAGE launched a caravan in Bacolod City. In Iloilo City, COURAGE and Protect Our Funds, the local alliance of government employees, marched to the GSIS regional office before holding a noise barrage.

## Bolivians oust Sanchez-Lozada regime

DESPITE support from the US government, Bolivian Pres. Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's regime collapsed on October 17 after a month-long bloody people's uprising led by the Bolivia Workers Central. Vice Pres. Carlos Mesa replaced him. The regime left 86 dead and over a thousand injured civilians. Miners, students, teachers, peasants, indigenous Indians and Catholic religious celebrated in the streets when they heard the news of the hated president's resignation. The month-long uprising was triggered by worsening poverty and the growing burden imposed on the people by imperialist "free market globalization".